

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. Senator Moore,...

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Moore, would you respond to a question, please.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Comment similar to Senator Wehrbein's is the reason I pressed my button. But the money for the Department of Health is just for buildings. Could you elaborate just a little bit more on that, or...

SENATOR MOORE: Well what it is, is intent language to allow them to go forward with a plan to come in with federal compliance and maintain primacy in the state. And so it...as of right now they were saying they would need to build a new lab. The thought is that this certainly does not give them approval to do that in any way, shape, or form. Well, they get the cash fund authority for that to be allowed, but it's saying before you move forward you have to come back to the Legislature and report what you're going to do. And so, I mean, the Health Department brought to the committee a plan. That plan was to build a new building, an additional building out at the lab...out at the lab on South 13th Street. The committee was of the opinion that, well, who says it's going to cost that much money, who says you have to build a lab, is it not possible to do private contracting there. All those things need to be explored. And before we're going to sign off on saying that is the best option, you come back and give us your options. And so it is the intent language that we do want to continue to have primacy in the State of Nebraska when it comes to these sort of testing. But it does not say how you're going to do it yet. That's something they are going to have to come back and tell us what they're going to do.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: And a primacy is an agreement stater they're a license testing lab under the federal Drinking Water Act, is that what primacy...

SENATOR MOORE: You state it even more accurately than I could have, Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Okay, thank you. And I...I would support